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Letter dated 13 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 October 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 October 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 27 August and 4 October 1999 (A/53/1047-S/1999/932 and A/54/446-S/1999/1034, respectively) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

It will be recalled that similar unfounded charges of so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 11 August 1999 (A/53/1037-S/1999/879, annex). I would like to emphasize, once again, that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the Greek Cypriot administration in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

While directing such unfounded accusations against the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greek Cypriot side is blatantly continuing with its massive armament campaign in South Cyprus.

Between 2 and 7 October 1999, the Greek Cypriot administration, together with Greece held joint military manoeuvres, code-named Nikiforos, in South Cyprus. Fighter aircraft and transport planes as well as ships and submarines belonging to the Greek Navy and Air Force participated in these exercises, based on the scenario of a full-scale attack against Northern Cyprus "for the recovery of lost territory". Greek fighter planes bombed mock targets in South Cyprus using live ammunition. Greek and Greek Cypriot political and military leaders present on this occasion made statements to the effect that these exercises were of a higher standard than ever before, and that the so-called "joint military doctrine" between South Cyprus and Greece would be further strengthened by all means.

The Greek Cypriot daily The Cyprus Mail of 8 October 1999 quoted the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Clerides, as saying that Greece has contributed in excess of US$ 1 billion towards the upgrading of the Greek Cypriot National Guard over an unspecified period of time. Mr. Clerides reportedly also told the press that there had been a huge upgrading of armed forces of South Cyprus since last year on all accounts, including the introduction of new weaponry. Russian-made TOR-MI anti-aircraft missiles recently provided by Greece in exchange for the S-300 missiles now deployed in Crete, were put on show along with other heavy weaponry and tanks at a military parade held on 1 October 1999.

The above-mentioned developments prove beyond any doubt that the Turkish Cypriot side is fully justified in its security concerns in the face of the ongoing provocative and hostile activities of the Greek-Greek Cypriot front.

I am enclosing herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in connection with the military preparations of the Greek Cypriot administration, conducted together with Greece, which threaten peace and stability in the island and the region (see appendix).

In this connection, I would like to emphasize that the continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the restrictive policies directed against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the Greek Cypriot side will be strongly urged by the international community to abandon its hostile policies against the Turkish Cypriot people and to stop the armament campaign, which increase tension and hinder progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its appendix circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus at Lefkosa, on 8 October 1999

It is observed that the Greek-Greek Cypriot side is currently engaged in military preparations which are at complete variance with the efforts to create a positive atmosphere in Cyprus and the region. In this connection, the celebrations held by the Greek Cypriot administration on 1 October marking the independence day of the so-called Republic of Cyprus, and the parading of heavy weaponry and tanks during these celebrations, as well as the provocative statements made by Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Clerides during the military parade, are grave developments which should be seriously considered.

Mr. Clerides has without any hesitation revealed that the Greek Cypriot side was in possession of a lot more sophisticated weaponry than those newly purchased arms and the Russian made TOR-MI missiles displayed at the parade. Mr. Clerides is on the one hand projecting messages to the world on demilitarization that are devoid of any sincerity, while on the other engaging in a military build-up in cooperation with Greece and spending millions of dollars to purchase new weapons. This clearly demonstrates the enormity of the contradiction that the Greek-Greek Cypriot front is in.

The Nikiforos military manoeuvres held together with Greece in the aftermath of the above-mentioned celebrations are designed to create new tensions on the island and in the region. The manoeuvres which were conducted in accordance with a scenario of a full-scale attack against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, as in previous years, and the participation of Greek fighter planes in these manoeuvres using live ammunition, constitutes an outright provocation. The participation of the Greek contingent stationed in South Cyprus in these exercises with tanks and heavy weapons is a further provocation.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot people are carefully following these grievous developments. We express the hope that the international community will also draw the necessary conclusions from these activities of the Greek-Greek Cypriot side, which constitute a threat to stability and security in Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean. The joint activities of the Greek-Greek Cypriot side on the island, demonstrate that there is not even a slight change in their objectives. We invite them, once again, to come to their senses.